

The Despatch referred to, with the previous communications from Secretaries of State, will fully inform the Hon. the House of Assembly of the reasons, both general and particular, which have influenced Her Majesty's Government in the decision at which they have arrived ; while from the copies of Despatches from the Governor's immediate predecessor, and from the Governor himself, communicating his own opinions and those of his constitutional advisers, it will be perceived that the objections urged by the local authorities of Newfoundland to the additional privileges sought for by France, have been clearly stated and unreservedly expressed.

The negotiations appear to have resulted in a modification both of the demands and concessions originally proposed upon the part of France.

In laying before the Assembly, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, the views contained in the despatches of the Secretary of State, before the completion of those formalities which are usually observed at the commencement of the Legislative Session, the Governor has had regard to the great interest and importance of the subject : and he desires to express his confidence, that in deliberating upon those views, the Legislature, while anxiously regarding, as in duty bounden, the interests of Newfoundland, will not fail to recognise the weight of those great international considerations which are so anxiously and impressively urged throughout the communications from Her Majesty's Government.

C. H. D.

Government House, }
6th February, 1857. }

(For Documents accompanying, see Appendix.)

On motion of Mr. HOYLES, seconded by Mr. ELLIS,

Resolution in relation to
Fishery Convention with the
Emperor of the French.

Resolved,—That this Assembly regard with feelings of extreme regret and surprise, as subversive of the just rights and destructive to the best interests of the people of this Colony, the concession, without any real equivalent, of almost unlimited fishing privileges to the subjects of France, as granted in the Convention transmitted to this House, and they desire to express their unanimous and unalterable determination never to give their assent to a measure so unjust.

On motion of the Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL, seconded by the Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY,